

Message Text

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ACTION SS-20

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-07 NSC-07

SPC-03 RSC-01 L-03 INRE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

DRC-01 /063 W

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O 201359Z MAR 74 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6460

INFO USMTM DHAHRAN

USCINCEUR

SECDEF

S E C R E T JIDDA 1388

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJECT: MODA REQUEST FOR ROYAL SAUDI AIR FORCE SURVEY

REF: (A) STATE 47957; (B) USMTM DHAHRAN DTG 141500Z MAR 74

SUMMARY: EMBASSY ENDORSES SCENARIO PROPOSED BY USMTM IN REF B.

EMBASSY WELCOMES WASHINGTON AND CINCEUR EXPERTISE BUT BELIEVES TEAM CONDUCTING SURVEY SHOULD REPORT TO AND BE UNDER OVERALL SUPERVISION OF CHUSMTM BG HILL.

STUDY WILL RAISE NUMEROUS POLICY ISSUES, AMONG THEM BEING SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH USG WISHES TO ENCOURAGE SAG-IRANIAN MILITARY COOPERATION. SAG WILL BE SATISFIED ONLY IF WE PROVIDE SAUDI FORCES WITH EQUIPMENT OF SIMILAR SOPHISTICATION TO THAT PROVIDED GOI.

END SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY ENDORSES GENERAL SCENARIO PROPOSED BY USMTM IN REF B. THOUGH MODA HAS WELCOMED OVERALL SURVEY OF ARMED FORCES IT IS RSAF SURVEY WHICH IS EAGERLY AWAITED. THUS, ABILITY OF WASHINGTON AND CINCEUR TO RESPOND AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO USMTM OUTLINE OF USAF SKILLS NEEDED WILL BE IMPORTANT FACTOR IN DETER-

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MINING WHETHER WE MEET JUNE 1 DEADLINE REQUESTED BY

MINDEF SULTAN. EMBASSY WILL, IN LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR, REMIND SULTAN THAT MODA FUNDING FOR TDY SERVICES WILL BE NECESSARY. TEXT OF LETTER FOR WASHINGTON'S APPROVAL WILL FOLLOW SEPTTEL. OPEN-ENDED LETTER-OF-OFFER CAN BE CARRIED BY MEMBER OF DOD TEAM, AS WAS DONE ON MEDICAL ADVISORS TEAM IN FALL 1973.

2. IMPORTANT POINT IN EMBASSY'S VIEW IS THAT GENERAL HILL, AS CHIEF OF THE U.S. MILITARY TRAINING MISSION, BE ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR STUDY AND THAT IT BE CONDUCTED IN HIS NAME AND UNDER HIS OVERALL SUPERVISION. WE WELCOME WASHINGTON AND CINCEUR EXPERTISE TO INSURE WELL-STAFFED, WELL-BALANCED STUDY, AND WILL FIND PARTICULARLY VALUABLE THOSE PERSONNEL WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN SIMILAR SURVEYS ELSEWHERE. EMBASSY BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT FORTHCOMING SURVEYS PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO ENHANCE ROLE OF USMTM AND TO STRENGTHEN WORKING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF USMTM AND THEIR SAUDI COUNTERPARTS. THOUGH ADDITIONAL WORKLOAD WILL CAUSE SOME DISRUPTION IN USMTM'S ROUTINE DAILY FUNCTIONS, THIS WILL BE TEMPORARY IN NATURE AND WILL AFFECT ONLY LIMITED NUMBER OF ADVISORS AT ANY ONE TIME DUE TO PHASED NATURE OF STUDIES. OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN STUDY IS EXAMPLE OF CHALLENGING WORK FOR WHICH WE HAVE BEEN SEEKING HIGH CALIBER OFFICERS. AS QUESTIONS OF POLICY ARISE IN COURSE OF STUDY EMBASSY WILL BE IN CLOSE COMMUNICATION WITH WASHINGTON.

3. CONCERNING NAVY PORTION OF SURVEY, RSN SENIOR PERSONNEL ARE FULLY INVOLVED IN PRESENT SNEP ACTIVITIES AND WILL NOT READILY FOCUS ON SURVEY OF PROPOSED NEEDS BEYOND TIME FRAME OF EXISTING PLAN. REQUESTS FOR COOPERATION AND INFORMATION IN THIS FIELD WILL NEED TO BE CLEARLY DEFINED; RECOMMENDATIONS MAY HAVE TO BE DRAWN UP WITH ONLY MINIMAL CONSULTATION WITH RSN PERSONNEL. MUCH DATA ALREADY EXISTS IN SNEP PROJECT OFFICE, OP63C, WASHINGTON.

4. STUDY WILL INEVITABLY CONFRONT NUMEROUS POLICY QUESTIONS. ONLY A PROPOSAL WHICH LEADS TO THE CREATION OF A MODERN FORCE WILL BE ACCEPTABLE. IN SAG EYES, MOREOVER,
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MODERNITY IS DEFINED IN TERMS OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS USG HAS SOLD TO IRAN. SAG WILL BE SATISFIED ONLY IF WE PROVIDE SAUDI FORCES WITH EQUIPMENT OF SIMILAR SOPHISTICATION (ALBEIT IN SMALLER QUANTITIES) TO THAT PROVIDED GOI. QUANTITIES ARE NOT THE IMPORTANT FACTOR; SAG HAS NO THOUGHT OF EQUALING THE QUANTITIES OF WEAPONS NOW BEING PURCHASED BY IRAN. QUALITY IS THE POINT AT ISSUE, AND WASHINGTON MAY WISH TO BEGIN EXAMINING THE

LIST OF ITEMS WE HAVE RELEASED TO IRAN WITH A VIEW TO
OFFERING THEM TO SAUDI ARABIA AS WELL.

5. ABOVE IS PARTICULARLY TRUE IF WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT
PROMOTING SAUDI-IRANIAN MILITARY COOPERATION. ANY EFFORT
TO ENCOURAGE SAG-GOI MILITARY COOPERATION MUST
BEGIN BY BOLSTERING SAG SELF-CONFIDENCE. WE CANNOT
EXPECT THE SAG TO ENTER INTO A CLOSE, COOPERATIVE
RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN IF SAG AWARE IT WILL ALWAYS COME
OFF SECOND BEST BY COMPARISON. APPARENT EQUALITY OF
TREATMENT AND KINDS OF EQUIPMENT OFFERED BY THE USG
WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO REAL SAG-GOI COOPERATION. THE
SAG IS WELL AWARE OF WHAT IRAN IS OBTAINING AND WILL BE
LOOKING FOR THIS CERTIFICATION BY THE USG OF
EQUAL CONFIDENCE IN BOTH PARTNERS.
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